

# stimulus news DIGEST

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## Recovery Project News

**Kaiser Permanente Wins \$54 Million in NIH Grants for Genetic, Other Research:** Oakland-based Kaiser Permanente has won more than \$54 million in federal stimulus funding to conduct research on many public and clinical health areas, including \$25 million for genetic research in Northern California. Kaiser said Monday that the National Institutes of Health has given its research centers 22 grants totaling \$54 million, including a \$25 million Grand Opportunities grant to conduct genotyping on 100,000 Kaiser Permanente enrollees. Kaiser said the genetic information will be linked to data on participants from RPGEH's health surveys, disease registries and Kaiser's electronic health record database, "resulting in a resource that will allow researchers to examine genetic and environmental influences on a wide variety of health conditions." (*"Kaiser Permanente Wins \$54 Million in NIH Grants for Genetic, Other Research," Sacramento Business Journal, 10/12/09*)

**Region Gears Up for Possible \$260M in Solar Power Projects:** A joint effort coordinated by nonprofit CleanTech San Diego has a good chance of bringing \$260 million worth of federal stimulus funding for photovoltaic solar power production to various municipalities in the region. Part of the stimulus package includes \$2.6 billion for "Clean Renewable Energy Bonds," and while that bond program isn't new, the funding level has tripled. It allows winning applicants to get no interest bonding capacity to build renewable resource projects. In the past, the program has funded rooftop solar energy systems and shade structure solar. Of the available clean energy bonds, \$800 million worth are for solar energy projects to municipalities nationwide. (*"Region Gears Up for Possible \$260M in Solar Power Projects," San Diego Business Journal, 8/12/09*)

**Teachers Most Helped by Early Stimulus Funding:** Preliminary data from a few states obtained by the AP shows that teachers seem to have benefited the most in terms of early federal dollar stimulus spending. The report comes via a nationwide effort to calculate the effect thus far of Washington's \$787 billion recovery package. The federal stimulus was credited with saving or creating 62,000 jobs in public schools and state universities in California. It's believed that these savings of state teacher jobs have come because the stimulus sent billions of dollars to help state budgets. In those states already hit hard, the money helped officials spare thousands of teacher from layoffs. (*"Teachers Most Helped by Early Stimulus Funding," Associated Press, 8/12/09*)

**California Stimulus Saved or Created 100,000 Jobs:** More than 100,000 jobs have been saved or created in California from the \$5.3 billion in federal stimulus money state agencies have spent so far, according to a preliminary report released Saturday by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's administration. The report from the California Recovery Task Force was based on nearly 6,000 reports it submitted to the federal government on behalf of state agencies and their grantees detailing their job creation through Sept. 30. They indicate that more than 62,000 of the jobs saved or created to date have been in education programs, including 34,000 jobs in the University of California and California State University systems and 28,000 jobs that fall under Department of Education programs such as public school teachers and special education workers. Together they reported spending more than \$5 billion. The White House has projected the stimulus plan will create or save 3.5 million jobs over the next two years, 90 percent of them in the private sector. Of that, 396,000 are expected to be created or saved in California. (*"Calif. Stimulus Saved or Created 100,000 Jobs," The Press Enterprise, 10/10/09*)

**Struggling Santa Cruz County Steelhead Get Bump**

**from Federal Stimulus:** Some 15 miles from sea, by way of river and stream, work crews are building a 60-foot bridge across a branch of redwood-shrouded Corralitos Creek, part of a \$3 million effort to make the channel more hospitable to steelhead trout — and the long swim they make from the ocean to spawning grounds deep in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The steelhead native to the region are listed by the federal government as a threatened species. Historic runs of 25,000 spawning adults between southern Santa Cruz County and northern Santa Barbara County are believed to number less than 500 today. The work in the Corralitos watershed has been paid for through a variety of state and federal sources. The new bridge, specifically, received more than half of its funding, about \$460,000, from the federal Recovery Act, while the rest came primarily from NOAA, the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the adjacent landowner. (*"Struggling Santa Cruz County Steelhead Get Bump from Federal Stimulus," Mercury News, 10/9/09*)

**Berkeley Study Says Energy Bill to Create 1.9 Million**

**Jobs:** A study by the University of California at Berkeley concludes that programs like the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES) would create approximately 1.9 million jobs, reaffirming the positive economic implications of clean energy policy in the U.S. The research detailed how comprehensive clean energy legislation would result in greater job growth, real household income, and overall economic output. ACES policy is forecasted to generate between 918,000 and 1.9 million new jobs by 2020. The macroeconomic impacts also include adding at least \$40 billion to GDP and increasing annual income up to \$1,175 per year, the study says. (*"Berkeley Study Says Energy Bill to Create 1.9 Million Jobs," Green News, 10/8/09*)

**California Gains Stimulus Funds for Broadband In-**

**ternet:** California will receive some of the first federal stimulus money to close the so-called digital divide, and it's angling for much more. On Monday, the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration awarded the first four grants under its State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program. The California Public Utilities Commission landed about \$1.8 million to collect and verify the availability, speed and location of broadband Internet service across the state, plus \$500,000 for broadband planning costs over four years. (*California Gains Stimulus Funds for Broadband Internet," Sacramento Bee, 10/8/09*)

**Shasta County Nonprofit Group Wins \$2.6 Million**

**in Stimulus Funds:** The Self-Help Home Improvement Project (SHHIP) of Shasta County will receive \$2.6 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. "The stimulus package funded the Department of Energy \$5 billion for weatherization," he said. "California received the largest amount out of all the states and that was distributed to the Department of Community Services and Development and each county received a percentage of that." Weatherization encompasses a multitude of energy-saving measures, including minor changes like repairing windows and doors, caulking, and installing energy-efficient light bulbs. (*"Shasta County Nonprofit Group Wins \$2.6 Million in Stimulus Funds," Record Searchlight, 10/7/09*)

**California Wants \$4.7 Billion in High-Speed Rail Stimu-**

**lus:** The state has a good chance of snagging \$4.7 billion of the roughly \$8 billion of stimulus funds set aside for high-speed rail projects, say officials and some observers. With a high-speed rail authority formed as far back as 1996, California is further ahead in its plans than most states including in identifying key routes and completing design plans and environmental impact statements. Most importantly, perhaps, state voters in November approved a \$10 billion bond measure for a high-speed train line that guarantees the federal government that its investment will be matched dollar for dollar. "They will get twice their investment back in jobs and economic stimulus in California," says Jeff Barker, deputy director for the California High Speed Rail Authority. Governor Schwarzenegger estimates California's plan can provide 130,000 of President Obama's goal of saving or creating 150,000 jobs through rail projects. The train system is not just a luxury, Schwarzenegger and others argue. California expects to see its population grow by 13.5 million within 20 years, resulting in 90 million to 115 million more intercity or inter-regional trips. Without the train, supporting those travelers would require at least \$82 billion in upgrades including 2,970 additional miles of freeway lanes, 90 new airport gates, and five new runways. (*"California Wants \$4.7 Billion in High-Speed Rail Stimulus," Christian Science Monitor, 10/6/09*)

